(g) a plurality of pairs of interdigital conductive strips adapted to be electrically coupled to the electrodes of said electroluminescent elements formed on said second layer of nonconducting material, each pair of conductive strips arranged to be bridged by a digit surface so as to selectively provide a conductive path between the conductive strips of said pairs of strips.

6. An optoelectronic switching circuit having a lockout operating function comprising: a plurality of electroluminescent-photoconductive pairs electrically connected in parallel, the electroluminescent and photoconductor elements of each said pair being optically coupled and electrically series connected and having a bistable current-voltage characteristic for which the high current state is accompanied by substantially greater intensity 15 light radiation then the low current state, a voltage source for energizing the electroluminescent elements of said plurality of pairs, a common electroluminescent cell connected in series between said voltage source and said plurality of pairs, a plurality of second photoconductors 20 each electrically connected in parallel with a respective electroluminescent element of each said pair and in optically coupled relationship with said common electroluminescent element for reducing the voltage across the respective electroluminescent elements, a plurality of inde- 25 WALTER STOLWEIN, Examiner.

pendently controllable activating switches each connected in parallel with a respective photoconductor of each said pair, actuation of said switches placing increased voltage across the respective electroluminescent element, whereby in response to actuation of one of said switches only the electroluminescent-photoconductor pair associated therewith becomes energized into its high current state, the remaining electroluminescent-photoconductor pairs being inhibited from entering the high current state due to insufficient voltage present across the electroluminescent elements of said remaining pairs.

## References Cited by the Examiner

## UNITED STATES PATENTS

5	2,186,825	1/40	Dome	20052
			Ercolino	
	3,056,887	10/62	Diemer et al	250-213

## OTHER REFERENCES

Astrahan: IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Volume 3, No. 3, page 65, August 1960.

RALPH G. NILSON, Primary Examiner.